

IET Ethical Policy for Journals

Last updated June 2016

All IET journals are committed to following best practices on publication ethics. The following policy is based mainly on the Codes of Conduct and Guidelines for Editors, Authors and Reviewers from the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) [1-3]. This policy should be read in conjunction with the IET's Author and Referee Guides which can be found through the journals' homepages.

Duties of the Editors

Review of Manuscripts

Editors will take all reasonable steps to ensure that peer referees' identities are protected, and that the peer review process is fair, unbiased and timely.

Publication Decisions

Editorial decisions are not affected by the origins of the manuscript, including the nationality, ethnicity, political beliefs, race, or religion of the authors. The decision to accept or reject a paper for publication is based on the paper's importance, originality and clarity, and the study's validity and its relevance to the remit of the journal.

Confidentiality

Editors will ensure that the information and material submitted by the authors remains confidential while under consideration for the journal, and will only be disclosed as appropriate to the author(s), referees, potential referees, other editorial advisors and the IET.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

Editors will not use unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted paper for their own research purposes without the author's explicit written consent. Submissions made to a journal by the Editor will be handled by an alternative Editor to ensure the process remains fair and unbiased.

Intellectual Property

Editors will ensure that all submissions are checked for originality using iThenticate's CrossCheck software prior to peer-review. Editors should be alert to intellectual property issues and will work with the IET to ensure that the [IET's Policy in Relation to Plagiarism, Infringement of Copyright and Infringement of Moral Rights and Submission to Multiple Publications](#) is upheld.

Duties of the Authors

Reporting Standards

Authors should present their results accurately, clearly and honestly, and without fabrication, falsification or inappropriate data manipulation. Misleading, selective or ambiguous reporting should be avoided. Authors should strive to describe their methods clearly and

unambiguously so that their findings can be confirmed by others. The submission guidelines of the journal must be followed.

Acknowledgement of Sources, Plagiarism, Infringement of Copyright and Infringement of Moral Rights and Submission to Multiple Publications

Authors must ensure that they have written entirely original work, acknowledge all sources of data and appropriately represent the work or words of others in citations or quotations. Copyright material (e.g. tables, figures or extensive quotations) should be reproduced only with appropriate permission and acknowledgement. Authors should ensure that they have not submitted the same manuscript or manuscripts describing essentially the same work to more than one journal concurrently. Authors should ensure that their submission does not contravene the IET's [Policy in Relation to Plagiarism, Infringement of Copyright and Infringement of Moral Rights and Submission to Multiple Publications](#)

Authorship

The authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution or interpretation of the reported study. Others who have made a significant contribution must be listed as co-authors. The submitting author must ensure that all the authors have seen and agreed to the submitted version of the manuscript and their inclusion of names as co-authors.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

All sources of financial support must be disclosed in the submitted manuscript. A statement should also be included disclosing any financial or other substantive conflicts of interest that may be seen to influence the results or interpretation of the presented work.

Significant Errors in the Work

Authors should alert the Editor promptly if they discover a significant error or inaccuracy in their submitted, accepted or published work. Authors should cooperate with the Editor in issuing retractions or corrections when required.

Human or Animal Subjects

All investigations involving humans must be conducted in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki and in accordance with local statutory requirements. Manuscripts relying on clinical trials should quote the trial registration number at the end of the abstract. Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed. For all manuscripts reporting experiments on animals, the corresponding author must confirm that all experiments were performed in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations. The manuscript must include a statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments, including any relevant details.

Duties of the Referees

Confidentiality

Referees should respect the confidentiality of peer review and not reveal any details of a manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process, beyond those that are released by the journal.

Acknowledgement of Sources

Referees should ensure that authors have acknowledged all sources of data used in their reported work. If the referee finds that the manuscript has similarity or overlap with any other published paper, this must be brought to the attention of the Editor immediately.

Standards of Objectivity

Referees should not allow their reviews to be influenced by the origins of a manuscript, by the nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender or other characteristics of the authors, or by commercial considerations. Referees should be objective and constructive in their reviews, refraining from being hostile or inflammatory, and from making libellous or derogatory personal comments.

Promptness

Referees should only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment and which they can assess in a timely manner.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

Referees should not agree to review any manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies or institutions. Referees should not use information obtained during the peer review process for their own or any other person's advantage, or to disadvantage or discredit others.

References

1. Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (7 March 2011), 'Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors'.

http://publicationethics.org/files/Code%20of%20Conduct_2.pdf , accessed May 2016

2. Wager E & Kleinert S (2011) '*Responsible research publication: international standards for authors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore*', July 22-24, 2010. Chapter 50 in: Mayer T & Steneck N (eds) *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. Imperial College Press / World Scientific Publishing, Singapore (pp 309-16). (ISBN 978-981-4340-97-7)

3. Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (March 2013), 'COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers'.

http://publicationethics.org/files/Ethical_guidelines_for_peer_reviewers_0.pdf , accessed May 2016